



City of Albuquerque

Legislative File Number R-06-112 (version 1)

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## **CITY of ALBUQUERQUE SEVENTEENTH COUNCIL**

Adopting A Policy To Make Railroad Crossings Within The City Limits “Quiet Zones” Within Five Years And To Collaborate And Coordinate With The New Mexico Department Of Transportation To Achieve This Goal.

## **CITY of ALBUQUERQUE SEVENTEENTH COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, numerous passenger, freight and local service delivery trains operate daily along the rail line that bisects the City of Albuquerque, and the new Rail Runner service will continue to increase the daily usage; and

WHEREAS, all trains must issue a warning horn as they approach railroad crossings on public roadways unless those crossings are barricaded to an extent that will prevent vehicle or pedestrian traffic from entering the area of the rail line while a train is approaching; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2005, the Federal Railroad Administration published FRA-1999-6439-3923 (“federal rule”), a quiet railroad crossing rule which provides for six types of “Quiet Zones,” ensures the involvement of state agencies and railroads in the quiet zone development process, gives communities credit for pre-existing safety warning devices at grade crossings, and addresses other issues, including pedestrian crossings, within a quiet zone; and

WHEREAS, the federal rule requires that the railroad that owns or controls operations over tracks crossing a public highway and the public authority that has jurisdiction over the roadway crossing the tracks must jointly file a petition for a “quiet crossing”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has authority over a number of public roadways that cross the tracks and the New Mexico Department of Transportation owns and operates the rail line; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a “quiet zone” requires (at a minimum) that each grade crossing be equipped with flashing lights and barrier gates, advanced warning signs and additional safety measures to compensate for the absence of the train's horn as a warning device; and

WHEREAS, the sounding of horns by the trains should be reduced where possible to minimize the negative effect it may have on residents and businesses in the vicinity of the rail line.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

Section 1. It is the policy of the City that railroad crossings within the City limits shall be "Quiet Zones" within five years from the effective date of this resolution.

Section 2. When, pursuant to the City's Capital Improvements Program, a railroad crossing within the City limits is scheduled for construction, maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement, any improvements shall be consistent with the goal of creating a "Quiet Zone" at that crossing.

Section 3. The City shall coordinate and collaborate with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to implement this Quiet Zone policy.